



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Guard Challenge Academy will interview in Fox Valley

Seeking to boost its outreach to young people in the Fox Valley, the Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy will conduct its first Regional Open Registration and Interviewing process at the National Guard armory in Oshkosh. The sessions, to be held Nov. 20-22, will help fill the academy's January 2004 class.

The academy is designed for 17- and 18-year-olds who have been expelled, have dropped out of high school, or have fallen at least a year behind in credits and will not graduate with their class. Applicants accepted to the program become Challenge Academy cadets, at no charge to their families and without incurring a military service obligation.

Cadets undergo a rigorous 5-month residential program at Fort McCoy in west-central Wisconsin, and are offered an opportunity to earn a GED, build self-esteem, and gain strength of character. The in-residence phase is followed by a 12-month period of mentorship in the cadet's hometown.

Registration and interview sessions in Oshkosh will include a program overview plus an application process that includes testing and interviewing. Attending the sessions does not guarantee a place in the class, but those who complete the process will be considered for admission. At least one parent or guardian must accompany each interested youth.

To inquire about this opportunity, call toll-free 866-968-8422 for details, including session times and entrance requirements.

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**Note to Editors and News Directors:** You can help spread the word to Fox Valley families about this new opportunity for at-risk young people by interviewing Mike Brown, the Challenge Academy's admissions coordinator. Mr. Brown will be in your area Thursday, November 13. To arrange a time for an interview or editorial board at your location, please contact Larry Sommers at 608-242-3056 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.